



Courtesy photo

(From left) Leslie Burger, network director for Veterans Integrated Service Network 20; Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Michael A. Dunn, commanding general, Western Regional Medical Command and Madigan Army Medical Center; and Timothy B. Williams, director of Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System, hold the document agreeing to integrate the American Lake's 15-bed inpatient acute care medical-surgical unit into MAMC.

MAMC absorbs veteran acute care

No jobs lost as result of transition of medical care

By Sharon D. Ayala

Madigan Army Medical Center Public Affairs Office

Officials from Madigan Army Medical Center and the Department of Veterans Affairs American Lake Division have entered into an agreement that will better serve the men and women who have served their country.

Under this new partnership agreement, which was signed Oct. 10, the American Lake's 15-bed inpatient acute care medical-surgical unit will be integrated into MAMC.

"Three months from now, the veterans who currently are hospitalized at units at American Lake will be hospitalized here at Madigan," said Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Michael A. Dunn, commanding general, Western Regional Medical Command

and MAMC.

Among some of the programs remaining at the American Lake Division will be a host of active primary care programs, outpatient specialty care, nursing home care, blind rehabilitation, domiciliary programs, medical research, inpatient and outpatient mental health programs — including traumatic stress and substance abuse — and the women's programs.

"This move means patients will have greater access to a wide complement of specialty services in the same hospital admission, thus reducing the need to travel to the VA's Seattle Division," said Timothy B. Williams, director, VA Puget Sound Health Care System.

According to officials, no VA staff will lose jobs as a result of the transition; some will continue to care for veterans at MAMC while others will be reassigned within VA Puget Sound.

Beginning early next year, MAMC

will begin integrating VA patients and some of VA's staff members.

"It is truly a win-win outcome for the veterans of the South Sound area and for the soldiers and families served by Madigan," Dunn said. "From the perspective of our veterans, the level of care I have observed at American Lake has always been first class. However, a small inpatient unit has few major specialty capabilities located on-site.

"The need for an inpatient to be moved to another location if a requirement for specific specialty inpatient care arises can be a real disadvantage for hospitalized veterans," he said. "Madigan has that full range of specialty services available right where our patients are."

Another benefit to this agreement, Dunn said, is that by adding this care volume, MAMC can further enhance the value of its training and readiness platform for its doctors, nurses and the entire staff.

Fort Lewis BOSS wins '2003 Best Event' award

Post honored for designated driver program at conference

By Barbara L. Sellers

Northwest Guardian

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers team members from Fort Lewis brought home an award from the 2003 Department of Army BOSS conference, which took place recently in Washington, D.C.

"This is our third award in the last four years," said Spc. John Reinhardt, one of three post BOSS team members who work full-time on the program.

The Fort Lewis BOSS team entered two of the 2003 competitions—one for best installation and one for best event, he said.

"We won the best event in the large installation category for our weekend Designated Driver Program," Reinhardt said. "For winning the award, we get \$1,000 from DA, which goes into a non-appropriated fund for BOSS."

Designated volunteer drivers use the BOSS van to take soldiers to and from their living quarters and the clubs on post every Friday and Saturday night, 9 p.m. to 3 a.m., he said.

"All soldiers have to do is call us at 677-9777," he said.

"As long as they are somewhere on post, we will pick them up," Reinhardt said. "We have a 'no questions asked' policy."

Spc. Erica Higholt, group BOSS representative for the 593rd Corps Support Group, helped present the designated driver program at the conference.

"I think it's a really nice program, especially for single soldiers," Higholt said. "It enables them to go out and have a good time with friends because the (BOSS) van provides a safe way for them to get home."

Although BOSS markets to single soldiers, he said members are allowed to bring a guest on any of the outings and others can participate as well.

"Some of our best volunteers are spouses, and we always have volunteer opportunities," Reinhardt said. "We logged more than 2,200 volunteer hours over the past year."

BOSS volunteers also support the Morale, Welfare and Recreation's community haunted house at Summit Skating Arena, which offers free admission to everyone who donates a canned food item.



John Reinhardt

Four members of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers work on setting up the entrance to the community haunted house. Team members from Fort Lewis brought home an award for its designated driver program from the 2003 Department of Army BOSS conference, which took place recently in Washington, D.C.

"Halloween night is more for children," Reinhardt said. "It's toned down a lot, so the children won't be too scared."

In 2002, more than 4,000 people visited the haunted house on Halloween night, he said.

BOSS also raises funds by sponsoring annual Santa Claus visits.

BOSS has an on post 'rent-a-Santa' who visits every December," Rein-

hardt said. "People can call us and for a small fee, they can rent a Santa for office parties, private parties, motor pools, whatever, as long as it's on post."

In addition, BOSS volunteers support an annual community carnival, a battle of the bands and a talent show. Other activities include winter ski trips to Crystal Mountain, Snoqualmie and Stevens passes, deep-sea fishing, white-

water rafting, paintball and shopping trips.

"We're trying to add new activities into the BOSS program, such as bungee-jumping and sky diving, but we haven't gotten it approved yet," Reinhardt said. "There's absolutely no excuse for anyone to say they don't have anything to do around here."

More than 2,000 people participated in the BOSS program last year, he said.

The next BOSS trip will be to Whistler Ski Resort in British Columbia, Canada, Nov. 27 to 30.

"Anyone who wants to go can sign up now, but they are required to prepay," Reinhardt said. "It's probably our most popular trip of the year, and offers an array of activities—golfing, fishing, riding snowmobiles, plus an unbelievable night life."

For more information, call 967-5636.

Public Works wins 'Power Player' title

By Steven Field

Northwest Guardian

Three Seattle energy organizations awarded Fort Lewis' Directorate of Public Works an award for energy conservation at the Seahawks game Sunday.

"We are celebrating a win-win situation here," said Joan Walters, deputy director of Seattle City Light. "In football, someone loses. But in the world of energy efficiency, everyone wins."

Col. Mike Stephenson, garrison commander, and Col. Steven Perrenot, director of DPW, accepted the "Power Player" award on behalf of Fort Lewis.

The award was originally chartered by Seattle City Light, Seattle's municipal electric utility.

It was designed to recognize businesses, community groups and governmental organizations that made a significant contribution to "resource conservation and environmental stewardship."

They teamed up this year with the Bonneville Power Administration and the Seattle Regional Office of the Department of Energy to honor 19 different organizations throughout Washington State.

"The award is based on the long-term accomplishments of Fort Lewis to make the environment more sustainable and bring in alternative sources of energy," said Paul Johnson, acting deputy director of the Seattle Regional Office of the



Steven Field

Col. Mike Stephenson (left), garrison commander, and Col. Steven Perrenot, director of the Directorate of Public Works, accepted the "Power Player" award on behalf of Fort Lewis at the Seattle Seahawks game Sunday.

Department of Energy.

The award presentation came at the tail end of a heightened drive by Public Works to promote a sustainable Fort Lewis.

Johnson pointed to progressive fuel efficiency efforts already implemented on post, as well as plans to create environmentally friendly ethanol fueling stations for commercial vehicles in the near future.

Johnson presented the trophy to Stephenson and Perrenot as well as the other awardees in a private box at Seahawks Stadium.

The Seahawks hosted the reception and sponsored an on-field recognition of the winners 15 minutes before the start of the game against the Chicago Bears.

The awardees stayed to watch the game as honored guests in the club-level

box. They enjoyed an exciting game that the Seahawks won with a last-minute touchdown.

Fort Lewis was one of only two military installations recognized as a "Power Player." The other was Fairchild Air Force Base, located outside Spokane, Wash.

Accepting the award for Fairchild AFB was Col. Anthony Mauer, commander 92nd Air Refueling Wing.

Among the other "Power Players" for 2003 are: Spokane Neighborhood Action Program; the City of Ellensburg, Wash.; Northwestern Industries; Boeing; Seattle Parks and Recreation; and the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council.

"Fort Lewis has been a shining star of how a military institution and a federal organization should act," said Johnson.

Teen-agers encouraged to seek, maintain healthy relationships

By Spc. Andrea R. Eppel

Northwest Guardian

The Family Advocacy Program hosted a youth awareness class recently at the North Fort Lewis Youth Center.

Issues discussed included healthy dating relationships and domestic violence as it pertains to teens. Yolie C. Cortez, FAP assistant and victim advocate, talked to teens about the warning signs of an unhealthy relationship.

"A relationship is supposed to be open, honest and trustworthy," Cortez told them. "If you are afraid of something in your relationship, it's best to get out of the relationship."

They also discussed types of abuse. Participants were asked what they thought would be emotional abuse, such as name calling, destroying personal property and separation from family and friends.

One teen remembered an instance in her life of emotional abuse.

"He bought me this necklace for my birthday, and he got mad and ripped it off and threw it away."

"That's emotional violence," said Cortez. She spoke to teens who believe emotional abuse is the worst of the three types discussed: physical, emotional and sexual.

She encouraged the teens to talk about the issues with their friends. She also asked them to help friends who may be victims of abuses and to let them know there are people they can talk to. If talking to parents is uncomfortable, there are counselors at school and FAP, Cortez said.

The teens then watched a film documentary/dramatization to help identify behaviors, and heard from victims and abusers.

Participants in the class were also given folders containing information on dating and domestic violence. The class was part of the National Domestic Violence Prevention Month of October.

(Editor's note: The teen's name is withheld to protect her privacy and anonymity.)

Statistics of abuse and teens

- Seventy-three percent of high school students have been, or know someone who has been, involved in an abusive dating relationship.
- Fifty percent of high school students have been, or know someone who has been, involved in a date rape.
- One in nine high school girls reported physical abuse.
- One in five high school girls reported sexual abuse.
- Forty-nine percent of female rape victims are under age 17.
- One study on teens and sexual assault found:
- Thirty percent had been raped by a friend;
- Eleven percent had been raped by a boyfriend;
- Seventy-eight percent did not tell their parents; and
- Six percent reported the incident to the police.

(Editor's note: Information obtained from Tikasz, D. Lindsay's Story "Education for Date Rape Prevention: Facilitator's Manual and Did You Know?" Violence Prevention Newsletter.)